

Ser. No. 10/733,503

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) An apparatus for cleaning a surface within a vessel, the apparatus comprising:
an elongate combustion conduit extending from an upstream end to a downstream end
associated with an aperture in a wall of the vessel and positioned to direct a shock wave toward
said surface; and
a resilient member resiliently restraining the combustion conduit against recoil forces.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
the resilient member couples the combustion conduit to the wall.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
the resilient member comprises a metal coil spring.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
the resilient member comprises a tension spring.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of movable supports supporting weight of the combustion conduit at a plurality
of locations along a length of the combustion conduit.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein:
the plurality of supports accommodate longitudinal expansion and/or contraction of the
combustion conduit.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein:
the plurality of supports comprise a plurality of trolleys each having wheels engaging a
track on a support surface.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein:

Ser. No. 10/733,503

the combustion conduit comprises a plurality of separable segments; and
each of the segments is supported atop a single associated one of the plurality of trolleys.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein:

the plurality of supports comprise a plurality of hangers.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for cleaning a surface within a vessel of a piece of industrial equipment, the vessel having a wall with an aperture therein, the method comprising:

introducing fuel and oxidizer to a conduit; and

initiating a reaction of the fuel and oxidizer so as to cause a shock wave to impinge upon the surface, a recoil force upon the conduit being resiliently taken up by a resilient member.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein:

the resilient member stores energy of the recoil as the conduit shifts from an initial position to a recoiled position and then returns the conduit to the initial position.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the shift is at least 0.01 m.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

shifting the conduit as a unit along a support mechanism to disengage a downstream end of the conduit from the vessel.

14. (New) An industrial facility comprising:

a vessel having a wall separating an interior from an exterior, there being an aperture in the wall;

a surface within the vessel;

an elongate combustion conduit extending from an upstream end to a downstream end associated with an aperture in the wall and positioned to direct a shockwave toward the surface;
and

a resilient member resiliently restraining the combustion conduit against recoil forces.

Ser. No. 10/733,503

15. (New) The facility of claim 14 wherein the resilient member couples the combustion conduit to the wall.
16. (New) The facility of claim 15 wherein the resilient member comprises a metal coil spring.
17. (New) The facility of claim 14 wherein the surface is formed by a tube bundle.